



City of Santa Barbara Transportation & Circulation Committee *Staff Report*

DATE: April 28, 2022

TO: Transportation and Circulation Committee

FROM: Derrick Bailey, Principal Transportation Engineer

SUBJECT: Cliff Drive Vision Zero Project – Design Change Near Shopping Center Area

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Transportation and Circulation Committee receive an update and provide comments on the updated design for the Cliff Drive Vision Zero Project near the shopping center area.

BACKGROUND:

The Cliff Drive Vision Zero Project is being developed in response to needs identified through several community planning efforts, including the Vision Zero Strategy and the Bicycle Master Plan.

Cliff Drive has been identified as a Vision Zero Priority Corridor in the Council adopted Vision Zero Strategy due to the pattern of traffic collisions resulting in serious or fatal injury.

The 2016 Bicycle Master Plan identified the need for a separated cycling facility along Cliff Drive for all ages and abilities.

In 2019, City Staff engaged with the community and stakeholders to develop plans for a separated cycling facility along Cliff Drive. During the planning process, the community also identified the need for new pedestrian crosswalks, improved transit stop access, and improved safety for all road users. A concept design was developed, and in 2020, Staff applied for funding to implement the Project through the California Active Transportation Program (ATP). Despite strong community support, the Project scored one point below the cutoff for funded projects.

Staff is planning to apply again for funding through the ATP in June 2022. In preparation for the application, Staff held community engagement workshops in January 2022 to provide an update and seek additional community input. The community reaffirmed its support for the overall project, but concerns were raised about the project alignment through the commercial area near Cliff Drive and Meigs Road. Attachment 1 illustrates the project location, and the location of the commercial area near Meigs Road.

In response to community input, an updated alignment has been developed for the segment between Oliver Road and Salida Del Sol. Community workshops will be held on Tuesday, April 26th (virtual) and Saturday, April 30th (in person).

Design Updates

The original design concept included a two-way path along the south side of Cliff Drive from Arroyo Burro County Beach to Castillo Street. Due to the frequency of busy commercial driveways through the commercial area near Meigs Road, center medians were proposed to limit left turn access across the path. Limiting left turn access would reduce the number of conflict points, and provide for a safer path. Due to safety concerns, a two-way path is not considered feasible through the commercial section without raised medians. Attachment 2 illustrates the medians.

The community was concerned that restricting left turn movements would negatively impact overall circulation in the area. Due to these concerns, an alternative with no medians has been developed. Instead of a two-way path through the commercial area, westbound cyclists will cross over to the north side of Cliff Drive, so both eastbound and westbound cyclists will cycle the same direction as traffic. Attachment 3 illustrates the cross over for westbound cyclists. Attachment 4 illustrates the roadway cross section for the commercial section. Attachment 5 illustrates the updated alignment between Oliver Road and Salida Del Sol.

The alignment includes a six-foot wide sidewalk, six-foot wide sidewalk level bike lane, and five-foot wide parkway for trees and separation from traffic for both directions. The original design called for a shared use path, so pedestrians and cyclists would share the same space through the commercial area. The original design did not leave enough room to provide a parkway along the north side of Cliff Drive, so the existing sidewalk would have remained immediately adjacent to traffic lanes.

Benefits and Tradeoffs

Benefits for the new alignment include:

- Safer for cyclists (going the same direction as traffic past busy driveways);
- Safer for pedestrians not sharing space with bikes;
- Less impactful to turning movements;
- Parkway with trees for shade, improved aesthetics and separation; and
- Better access to the shopping center area along the north side of Cliff Drive.

Tradeoffs for the new alignment include:

- Westbound cyclists must cross over Cliff Drive;
- The medians in the original design provided a refuge for pedestrians crossing mid-block. Staff will continue to analyze this segment for additional crosswalk opportunities; and

- More expensive - engineering staff are updating the cost estimate, but the changes will likely increase the project cost.

NEXT STEPS:

On May 17, 2022, staff will return to City Council for a resolution of support to seek grant funding for the project as well as direction on local leveraging to include the grant application. Staff is currently working on the application, which is due in June 2022. Results are expected by October 2022.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. Project Location Map
 2. Original Design Concept With Medians
 3. Bike Crossover In Updated Design Concept
 4. Roadway Cross Section In Updated Design Concept
 5. Updated Alignment Between Oliver Road and Salida Del Sol


Attachment 1: Location Map





■■■■■■■■■■ Cliff Drive Pathway Project Location


Attachment 2: Original Alignment With Medians





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PARKWAY/POTENTIAL STORMWATER INFILTRATION
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MEDIAN
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CONCRETE MULTI USE PATH AT SIDEWALK LEVEL
- 

ASPHALT MULTI USE PATH AT STREET LEVEL
- 

TRAFFIC SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION
- 

POTENTIAL TREE PLANTING LOCATION
- 

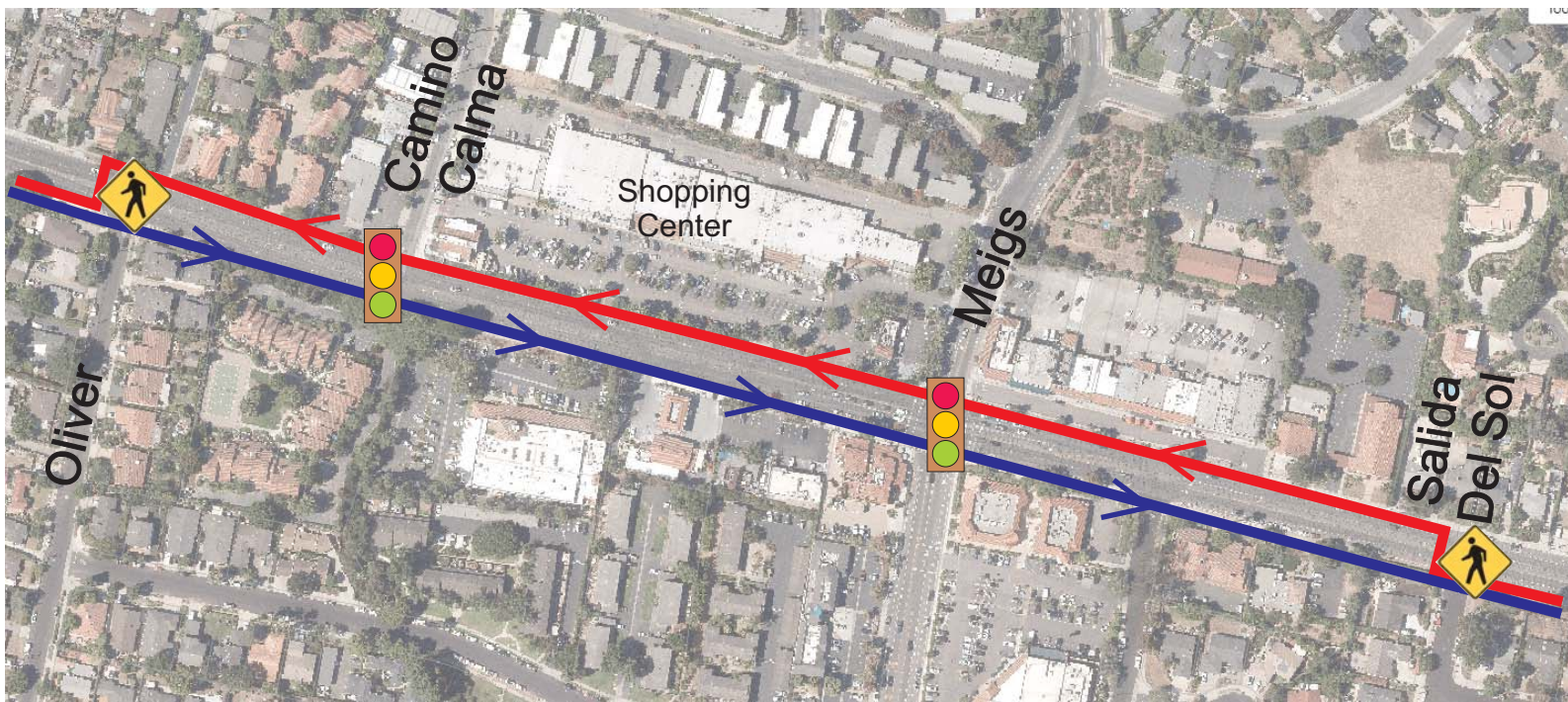
NEW PEDESTRIAN SCALE LIGHT
- 

NEW CROSSWALK WITH FLASHERS
- 

EXISTING LIGHT

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA			
PUBLIC WORKS			
CLIFF DRIVE MULTI-USE PATH			
SERVICE REQUEST: NA	WORK ORDER: NA	DATE: 10/20/2019	DRAWN BY: DB
SHEET: 1 OF 1			
SCALE: 1"=30'			

Attachment 3: Bike Crossover In Updated Design Concept



Westbound Bike Path of Travel

Eastbound Bike Path of Travel

Attachment 4: Street cross section between Camino Calma and Meigs Road
(in front of shopping center)



